

What is Claimed is:

1. A hand-held control device for controlling a terminal connectable by a communications network to an addressed resource, the device comprising:
address input means for scanning a text address of the resource; and
command output means for uploading address information from the device to the terminal and causing the terminal to connect to the addressed resource.
2. A device according to claim 1, further comprising recognition means for recognizing the nature of the addressed resource from the format of the scanned text address.
3. A device according to claim 2, further comprising means for retrieving an application launch code suitable to launch an application on the terminal appropriate to the nature of the addressed resource.
4. A device according to claim 3, further including means for appending the application launch code to the address information before upload to the terminal.
5. A device according to claim 4, further comprising means for storing the address information with an associated application launch code until upload to the terminal.
6. A device according to claim 1, further comprising control means responsive to the orientation and/or movement of the device.
7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the control means includes a tilt switch or an array of tilt switches arranged to sense orientation of the device.

8. A device according to claim 6, wherein the control means includes an accelerometer or an array of accelerometers arranged to sense orientation or movement of the device.

9. A device according to claim 8, wherein the control means is arranged to sense movement of a head end of the device when the device is used as a writing instrument.

10. A device according to claim 6, wherein the control means activates a function in accordance with the orientation or movement of the device.

11. A device according to claim 6, wherein the control means activates a function in accordance with a predetermined sequence of orientations or movements of the device.

12. A device according to claim 1, wherein a head end of the device includes a stylus.

13. A device according to claim 12, wherein the stylus is retractable.

14. A device according to claim 1, further comprising means for generating a text file as a user writes with the device.

15. A device according to claim 1, further comprising means for generating a graphics file as a user writes or draws with the device.

16. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a head end and an elongate barrel terminating distally in the head end to provide a generally pen-like size and shape.

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein (i) the address input means includes a scanner, and (ii) the head end defines a surface that is obliquely angled to the longitudinal axis of the barrel such that the surface including the scanner.

18. A device according to claim 1, further comprising means for storing a plurality of resource addresses.

19. A device according to claim 18, further comprising (i) means for displaying all of the stored resource addresses, and (ii) means for selecting an appropriate one of the stored and displayed resource addresses.

20. A device according to claim 1, wherein the command output means uploads information to the terminal by wireless transmission.

21. A device according to claim 20, wherein the command output means includes an IR or RF transmitter.

22. A device according to claim 1, further comprising display means for providing a confirmatory display of a scanned address.

23. A hand-held control device for controlling a terminal, the device comprising:
command output means for uploading a text or graphics file from the device to the terminal;

sensor means for sensing movement of the device when the device is used as a writing or drawing instrument; and

means for generating the text or graphics file as a user writes or draws with the device.

24. A device according to claim 23, connectable by a communications network to an addressed resource, wherein the command output means includes means for causing the terminal to connect by a communications network to an addressed resource and to convey the text or graphics file as message information to that resource.

25. A system comprising:
 a hand-held control device for controlling a terminal connectable by a communications network to an addressed resource, the device including (i) address input means for scanning a text address of the resource, and (ii) command output means for uploading address information from the device to the terminal and causing the terminal to connect to the addressed resource; and
 a terminal for downloading address information from the device.

26. A system according to claim 25, wherein the terminal includes means for recognizing, verifying and acting upon command data.

27. A method of controlling a terminal connectable by a communications network to an addressed resource, the method comprising:
 scanning a text address of the resource;
 uploading address information to the terminal; and
 causing the terminal to connect to the addressed resource.

28. A method according to claim 27, further comprising recognizing the nature of the addressed resource from the format of the scanned text address.

29. A method according to claim 28, further comprising retrieving an application launch code suitable to launch an application on the terminal appropriate to the nature of the addressed resource.

30. A method according to claim 29, further comprising appending the application launch code to the address information before upload to the terminal.

31. A method according to claim 30, further comprising storing the address information with an associated application launch code until upload to the terminal.

32. A method according to claim 27, further comprising controlling the terminal by a hand-held device that scans the resource address and uploads resource address information to the terminal.

33. A method according to claim 32, further comprising controlling the hand-held device by orientation and/or movement of the device.

34. A method according to claim 32, further comprising using the device as a writing instrument and sensing movement of the device to generate a message file.

35. A method according to claim 27, further comprising uploading information to the terminal by wireless transmission.

36. A method according to claim 27, further comprising providing a confirmatory display of a scanned address.

37. A method according to claim 27, wherein the terminal recognizes, verifies and acts upon command data.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the addressed resource is an Internet resource and the terminal launches a browser and uses that browser to load the Internet resource.

39. A method according to claim 38, further comprising displaying, viewing and optionally interacting with the Internet resource.

40. A method of controlling a terminal, the method comprising:
using a hand-held device as a writing or drawing instrument;
sensing movement of the device to generate a text or graphics file as a user writes or draws with the device; and
uploading that file from the device to the terminal.

41. A method according to claim 40, further comprising using the hand-held device to cause the terminal to connect by a communications network to the addressed resource and to convey the text or graphics file as message information to that resource.